

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. (currently amended): A medical image handling system comprising:
 - a) a monitor for displaying a medical image;
 - b) a processor configured to process a control of judging presence or absence of an inputting of ~~the image reading~~ a diagnosis report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor, wherein the diagnosis report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor includes information input by the user while viewing the medical image, displaying an image for inputting a diagnosis report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor in a case where the input of the diagnosis report is judged to be absent, and restricting a change of displaying the medical image in a case where the inputting of the diagnosis report is judged to be absent; and
 - c) an input device for inputting a diagnosis report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor on the basis of a user instruction.

2. (previously presented): A medical image handling system according to claim 1, wherein said processor judges presence or absence of the inputting of the diagnosis report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor when the medical image displayed on said monitor is changed.

3. (previously presented): A medical image handling system according to claim 1, wherein the processor requests an inputting of the diagnosis report, in a case where the inputting of the image reading report is judged to be absent.

4. (canceled).

5. (previously presented): A medical image handling system according to claim 3, wherein said processor measures a time elapsing from the display of the medical image on said monitor and judges presence or absence of the inputting of the diagnosis report corresponding to the displayed medical image when the measured time exceeds a predetermined time.

6. (currently amended): A medical image handling system comprising:

- a) a monitor for displaying a medical image;
- b) a processor configured to process a control of judging presence or absence of the inputting of a diagnosis report corresponding to the displayed medical image, wherein the diagnosis report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor includes information input by the user while viewing the medical image, to display an image for inputting a diagnosis report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor in a case where the input of the diagnosis report is judged to be absent, and to input a diagnosis report that ~~which~~ indicates absence of observation instead of a diagnosis report input by the input device, in a case where the inputting of the diagnosis report is

judged to be absent and the medical image displayed on the monitor is changed, or in a case where a predetermined time has elapsed; and

c) an input device for inputting a diagnosis report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor on the basis of a user instruction.

7. and 8. (canceled).

9. (currently amended): A medical image handling method comprising:

a) a step of displaying a medical image on a monitor;

b) a step of judging presence or absence of an inputting of a diagnosis report corresponding to the displayed medical image;

c) a step of displaying an image for inputting a diagnosis report corresponding to the medical image displayed in a case where the input of the image reading report is judged to be absent, wherein the diagnosis report corresponding to the medical image displayed on the monitor includes information input by the user while viewing the medical image; and

d) a step of restricting a change of displaying the displayed medical image, in a case where the inputting of the diagnosis report is judged to be absent.

10. (previously presented): A medical image handling method according to claim 9, wherein said step of judging presence or absence of the inputting of the diagnosis report is executed in the case that the displayed medical image is changed.

11. (previously presented): A medical image handling method according to claim 9, wherein, in said judging step, a time elapsing from the display of the medical image in said displaying step is measured, and presence or absence of the inputting of the diagnosis report is judged in a case in which the measured time exceeds a predetermined time.

12. (previously presented): A medical image handling method according to claim 9, further comprising a step of requesting an input of the diagnosis report corresponding to the displayed medical image, in a case where the inputting of the diagnosis report is judged to be absent.

13. and 14. (canceled).

15. (currently amended): A medical image handling method comprising:

- a) a step of displaying a medical image on a monitor;
- b) a step of judging presence or absence of an inputting of a diagnosis report corresponding to the displayed medical image from an input device;
- c) a step of displaying an image for inputting a diagnosis report corresponding to the medical image displayed in case where the input of the diagnosis report is judged to be absent, wherein the diagnosis report corresponding to the medical image displayed on the monitor includes information input by the user while viewing the medical image; and

d) a step of inputting a diagnosis report which indicates absence of observation instead of a diagnosis report input by the input device, in a case where the inputting of the image reading report is judged to be absent and the medical image displayed on the monitor is changed, or in a case where a predetermined time has elapsed.

16. and 17. (canceled).

18. (previously presented): A medical image handling method according to claim 15, wherein the diagnosis report inputted in said inputting step includes either of a name of an image reading person or an image display time.

19. - 51. (canceled).